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TWO NEGRO HIGHWAYMEN GIVEN 20 YEARS IN PEN

Extreme Penalty
Imposed on
Men Accused of
Robbing
Attorney Hooper

Sam Reed and Oscar Wright, negroes, were sentenced to twenty years each in the penitentiary—the extreme penalty of the law—by Judge Ben H. Hill in the criminal division of the superior court Tuesday, when they were found guilty of holding up, assaulting and robbing Attorney Frank A. Hooper June 2.

Mr. Hooper, widely known because of his association with Solicitor Hugh M. Dorsey in the prosecution of Leo M. Frank, was one of the first witnesses called by the state, and he recounted to the jury the dramatic story of the hold-up.

Mr. Hooper, on the night of June 2, was walking along Eighth and Piedmont walked on one side of the walk and the other went near the curb, forcing the attorney to walk between them. Suddenly, Mr. Hooper told the court, both men commenced hitting him, one of them using brass knucks and the other a sand bag.

FOUGHT WITH ASSAILANTS.

He was knocked down but quickly gained his feet and clinched with Oscar Wright, the larger of the negroes. Down an embankment they rolled 20 feet to the bottom of the ravine.

The negro landed on top, and, choking Mr. Hooper with one hand plied the brass knucks with the other, leaving more than twenty gashes on the lawyer's face and head.

While Wright was hammering the lawyer in the face with the knucks, Reed went through his pockets, taking a watch and \$2.

Finally the two highwaymen left the bruised and battered attorney in a semiconscious condition and escaped in the darkness.

City Detectives Waggoner and Doyal worked on the case several weeks and finally located Mr. Hooper's watch in a pawn shop. They then traced it to the negroes, who confessed. They repudiated the confession in court, but the evidence was all against them and a jury quickly returned a verdict of guilty.

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CHIEF ADVISES AGAINST TOO FREE USE OF “WAGON”

All captains and sergeants of the police force were in conference with Chief J. L. Beavers behind closed doors Monday. It is said the chief cautioned the men against making frivolous cases, but urged them to continue vigorously the war on vice.

The chief is also said to have stated that many of the patrolmen are not free enough in the granting of copies of charge, and they were urged whenever possible to spare persons charged with minor offenses the humiliation of a ride in the patrol wagon.
